



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Randy St. John
Sr. V.P.
Association Services
800-543-8207

Laura Bourne (FMI)
202-220-0631

**Pennsylvania Food Merchants Praise Senator Santorum
For Introducing Retirement Security Legislation
*Measure Would Clarify Multiemployer Pension Provisions***

(CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA) — October 5, 2005 — Pennsylvania food retailers praised Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Republican Conference for introducing legislation today on retirement security.

"The legislation is needed to protect hard working Pennsylvanians who rely on company pensions and Social Security to meet their financial obligations after completing their career. When enacted, the legislation will give businesses needed options for funding employee pension plans. Senator Santorum's leadership on this critical issue is appreciated by Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association's Directors and members," said David L. McCorkle, president of the PFMA.

"Supermarkets participate in all forms of pension plans for their associates and we applaud the needed legislation introduced today on multiemployer pension plans," said Tim Hammonds, president and ceo of the Food Marketing Institute. "Senator Santorum's efforts will provide employers who participate in these types of pension plans much needed tools so they can make the decisions necessary to protect the retirement benefits of their associates."

-more-

2-2-2

The legislation makes important reforms in the area of multiemployer pension plans. It is expected to be considered on the Senate floor, as part of a broad pension funding and reform bill, this week.

Pennsylvania supermarkets, such as ACME Markets; Giant Eagle, Inc.; TOPS Markets, LLC; Pathmark Stores, Inc.; ShopRite; Shop N Save; Foodland; and Genuardi's, all offer pension benefits to their associates through collectively bargained multiemployer pension plans.

Nationwide, over one million supermarket associates are covered by defined benefit multiemployer pensions, including clerks, bakers, truck drivers, and food distribution center employees, among others.

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association/Pennsylvania Convenience Store Council is a statewide trade association that works to improve the public image, effectiveness and profitability of more than 6,000 retail food stores, wholesale distributors and other associated business members throughout Pennsylvania.

###

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
P.O. Box 870, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0870
(717) 731-0600 • In Pa. (800) 522-9983 • Nat'l (800) 543-8207
Web site: www.pfma.org